NASH

Lincoln

ABRAHAM LINCOLN

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AN ADDRESS DELIVERED BY MR. JOHN F. NASH
AT OTTAWA, ILLINOIS, FEBRUARY TWELFTH
ONE THOUSAND NINE HUNDRED AND SEVEN

ABRAHAM LINCOLN

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Every nation and every people have had their myths, their legends, their folk lore, their traditions, their poets, their dramatists, their gods, their national idols and their heroes. France has her St. Louis; Switzerland, her William Tell; the Lowlands, their William the Silent; Ireand, her St. Patrick; Engand, her Arthur, and we, among the youngest of all nations, have two, Washington and Lincoln. The name of Washington is surrounded with the mystic halo of romance, and the name of Lincoln will be so surrounded.

In classic days it was the custom to award heroes the honors of divinity. Their idols were set up in splendid temples adorned with all the orders of architecture.

In mediæval days the church conferred upon its martyrs and heroes the title of saintship. Lincoln has not been so honored, but he was a martyr and hero, and the American people look upon him as a saint.

We have met here tonight for the purpose of honoring his memory. The year 1809 will forever be memorable as the year that gave him birth. Many other able men in foreign countries were born in the same year, but most of them with whom we are acquainted were to the manor born, while Abraham Lincoln was only born in the lowest depths of poverty. Many of the former had the advantages of extensive travel under the patronage, and at the expense, of great, rich and prosperous nations. Mr. Lincoln, on the contrary, had only the advantages in his early youth of a voyage from the Sangamon river to New Orleans in a flat bottom boat, where, having seen men, women and children for sale upon the auction block, he forever became an enemy

to the institution of slavery. Many of the former had the advantages of graduating from great universities, hoary with age and with splendid traditions, while Mr. Lincoln only graduated from the university of observation and hard experience. Many of the former were destined to ameliorate thought from the bondage and thralldom of authority and traditions and from the teachings of school men. Mr. Lincoln was destined to liberate and rescue a human race from the bondage of slavery, and who shall say that Mr. Lincoln would have been a greater man had he been born in the palace of the Cæsars, cradled in the villa of Hadrian, or could have listened to the polished orations of Cicero in the senate house, or the learned arguments of Hortensius in the law courts, or even if he could have sat at the feet of the great Julius to learn the art of war and the art of writing commentaries and military dispatches.

A distinguished man, a Southerner by birth and education, a Democrat in politics and a lawyer by profession, a voluminous writer on American history, as well as on congressional government and constitutions of States, in a book of essays has one entitled, "Great Americans." He classes Hamilton and Madison as great Englishmen, rather than great Americans. Their modes of thought and their precedents were drawn largely from English sources. On the contrary, he classes Benjamin Franklin, George Washington, John Marshall and Daniel Webster as great Americans. Benjamin Franklin was the first unionist the country has ever known, for, as early as 1745, at a convention of the colonies held at Albany, he suggested a confederation of all the colonies for offensive and defensive purposes, and also for commercial and postal regulations. Washington was the acknowledged hero of the American Revolutionary war. John Marshall, in a series of luminous decisions, without the aid of foreign precedents, made our constitution

a workable instrument. Webster advocated the union of all the states with all his unrivalled eloquence. Calhoun, he calls a great South Carolinian, with one idea. Jackson was a great Tennesseean, a great fighter, but never gained a new idea after he was fifty years of age. Benton was a great Missourian. With the vision of a prophet and seer, he foretold the splendors of our American empire upon the Pacific slope. Clay came near being a great American, but he could never quite forget that he was born in Virginia; that Kentucky was his adopted state; that he was surrounded by a peculiar institution which he was sometimes compelled to support, and this made him provincial, rather than national. Yet Clay would have been a great American, had he not been a great compromiser.

But in speaking of the career of Mr. Lincoln, considering all of his early disadvantages and the achievements and fame he afterwards won, he pronounces him the Greatest American. Mr. Lincoln, born in Kentucky, cradled in Indiana, his early manhood spent in Illinois, could not, from the circumstances, have had much of State pride. He appears from the first to have been a Unionist. He knew no North, no South, no East, no West. His horizon was broad enough to take in the whole, from the Atlantic to the Pacific, and from the Lake of the Woods to the Gulf.

The distinguished American to whom I refer is Woodrow Wilson, the President of Princeton University; and I hope I shall give no offense when I say that I hope the Democratic party will nominate him for their presidential candidate next year.

The material relating to the career of Mr. Lincoln, both historical and biographical, is now so voluminous as to be almost confusing, and the central figure so bright and dazzling, without even a burning bush to screen one's eyes, is enough to awe one into silence; and, where

greater men have essayed to portray his character. it would seem like vanity in me to make the attempt, and probably silence on my part would be better than words. Yet every man, great and small, has his own point of view, and I have mine. I will try to base my premises upon historic truth; but no one is bound to accept my conclusions. On that point, you shall be the judge, not I.

Mr. Lincoln's early boyhood was prophetic of his greater manhood. He frequently gathered about him in the evening his neighbors, when he would tell his inimitable stories and impart such information as he possessed. It must never be forgotten that in those days there were no public libraries. There were no newspapers. Communication with the outside world was almost entirely cut off. The only books in the cabins of the early settlers were probably a copy of the King James translation of the Bible, a hymn book, a copy of Pilgrim's Progress, and sometimes an almanac. Considering such circumstances, it is wonderful that Lincoln should have known anything of the world. He appears to have tried several occupations. He was an amateur surveyor, a clerk in a country store, but he spent more time in telling stories than in waiting upon customers. Finally, he became a storekeeper; but, of course, he failed in business, as might have been expected. He did not try, however, to defraud other men by throwing himself upon courts of bankruptcy, but gave up everything. After this, he took what jobs he could get, and came out all right.

About this time he appears to have run upon a copy of the Revised Statutes of Indiana, which he read with great eagerness, as he did everything else, and it was said that it was the reading of that book which made him determined to become a lawyer. He procured Blackstone's Commentaries, how I do not now recollect, but, working all day at such jobs as he could get, he spent his nights reading the book

by the light of log fires and tallow dips. Finally, he journeyed to Springfield, was admitted to the bar, and became partner of J. F. Stuart. His stock of learning must have been of the slimmest kind, but he appears to have developed rapidly, and soon became known in Sangamon county as a successful trial lawyer and an expert in the art of cross-examining witnesses. He served also two terms in the Illinois legislature. At other times he would engage in his professional duties. He became a stump speaker for the Whig cause. In 1844 he stumped for Henry Clay, and in 1848 for General Taylor. But soon his legal practice grew, and he next traveled the circuit with the judges in the Sangamon and McLean county circuit. In 1846 he became prominent enough to be nominated for Congress in the Sangamon district, served one term, but, failing of re-nomination, he went back to the law practice and supposed that his political career was at an end. But soon things changed. In an evil hour, under the lead of Judge Douglas, who was chairman of the committee on territories in the Senate, the Missouri Compromise was repealed and the infamous Kansas and Nebraska bill introduced. When Mr. Douglas came home, he found the prairies on fire, and was compelled to take the stump in defense of his measures. That was Mr. Lincoln's opportunity. He re-entered politics and never closed it until the day of his assassination. Mr. Douglas and Mr. Lincoln became political rivals and antagonists, and remained such until the day of Mr. Lincoln's election to the Presidency.

Mr. Lincoln became famous as a political speaker. After the Lincoln and Douglas debates, his reputation became national, and he was invited to make a speech at Cooper Institute, which was favorably commented upon by all opposition newspapers. The New York Tribune, in an editorial the very next day, expressed the regret that there were not more people to hear this speech, for that probably he would never

be seen or heard of again so far east as New York. Yet six months from that time he was nominated, and in less than one year was elected President of the United States. He journeyed to Washington in the last days of Mr. Buchanan's administration.

The State of South Carolina had seceded. Mr. Buchanan, in his final message, deplored the condition of things, but said there was no power in the federal government to coerce a state.

When Mr. Lincoln arrived in Washington he found in session a convention of prominent Northern and Southern men, met for the purpose of arriving at some compromise between the two sections. The presiding officer of that convention was John Tyler. After some discussion, no agreement could be arrived at, for the demands of the Southern men were such that the Northern men could not accede to them without dishonor and disgrace. Then the convention adjourned. At the suggestion of one of the Southern men, who thought they ought, as a matter of respect, to call on the President elect, he was notified that they would do so. Most of them called. They found him standing, silent and alone, in one of the parlors of the old Willard hotel, and, when they entered, he received them politely. As they were introduced to him, he spoke to them pleasantly, saying to this one that he was a taller man than he expected to see; to another that he was a younger man than he expected to see; and to Mr. Stanley, of North Carolina, that he had not changed much in appearance since they sat together in Congress in 1847. One of the Southern members asked him what his policy would be. Mr. Lincoln told them that that was neither the proper time nor the proper occasion to announce his policy, that they would learn what his policy was in his inaugural address; but he said, "Gentlemen, in the meantime would it not be well to stop talking, giving a little here and a little there, and try the Constitution a while

longer?" They went home to secede. It is a matter of history that it was not to make terms, but to gain time to carry out their designs.

At his inauguration, Mr. Lincoln was surrounded by a cordon of soldiers. Upon assuming the duties of his office, he found the treasury so low that the officials of the treasury were obliged to borrow money at a high rate of interest to pay the expenses of the government. What there was of the army had been sent away into Texas under the command of the secessionists. The navy was dispersed into distant waters where it was not needed. Every one of the government departments was filled with spies and secession sympathizers. So appalling was the situation that it is a wonder the President himself did not break down under the strain. And here let me say, for I lived in those days myself, that many of Mr. Lincoln's admirers, in low tones and with bated breath, asked each other whether Mr. Lincoln would be equal to the occasion; and there were many doubting Thomases, I am sorry to say. But the people had not long to wait. Mr. Lincoln had one hard job on his hands, and that was to subdue his cabinet. Four of the members of his cabinet had been candidates for the nomination for President. Two of them, Mr. Seward and Mr. Chase, had been governors of their respective States and United States senators, and had had great experience in executive and administrative affairs, while Mr. Lincoln had had comparatively no such experience. Mr. Seward appears to have thought that Mr. Lincoln would make a respectable man to fill the chair and draw the salary, but he (Seward) would be the real President. He was soon undeceived. Within a few weeks after the inauguration, and after the new administration had commenced its labors, Mr. Seward called upon the President and stated that the government appeared to be drifting, that no policy had been announced and people were becoming alarmed. Mr. Lincoln told him that if he would refer to his

inaugural message he would find a program laid down in unmistakable terms and from that he did not propose to deviate, and plainly intimated that when he wanted further advice as to the policy to be pursued he would call upon him. For the first time, Mr. Seward got a little inkling that Mr. Lincoln was President and he only Secretary of State.

The war went on. Large armies had been raised and sent to the field. Bull Run had been fought and the Northern army defeated.

Immediately thereafter, President Davis sent abroad John Slidell, of Louisiana, and James Y. Mason, of Virginia, for the purpose of soliciting recognition of the Confederacy from foreign governments. They sailed from the port of Havana in the British steamer Trent. The steamer was overhauled by an American naval vessel, whose officers boarded the vessel and took off Messrs. Mason and Slidell and brought them into the port of Baltimore. Everyone in the North was aroused. They looked upon it as an offset for the defeat of Bull Run. But soon a dark cloud came hovering over the Eastern sky. Lord John Russell, the British Foreign Secretary of State, upon learning of the capture of the Confederate commissioners, dispatched a note to our government, couched in warlike tones, denouncing the whole affair as an outrage, demanding the prompt release of the prisoners and an apology for the outrage. To this note, Mr. Seward replied in an equally threatening tone, declining to surrender the prisoners or to make suitable apology, and presented his note to his chief, as he was bound to do. Mr. Lincoln took the note and looked it over. He said: "Well, Mr. Seward, one war at a time is enough." He decided that the contention of Lord John Russell was correct. It was a violation of international law to overhaul and search a neutral vessel on the high seas, and under no circumstances could Mason and Slidell be considered as contrabands of war. The whole proceeding was in violation of the

principles for which we have always contended. It was for that principle we went to war with England in 1812, and that we could not afford to go back of our own record. Mr. Lincoln then struck out of Mr. Seward's note everything that seemed warlike and belligerent, toned it down in the spirit of moderation, and ended by surrendering the prisoners and tendering an apology. In accordance with Mr. Lincoln's ideas, Mr. Seward was directed to prepare a new note, and was ordered to transmit the amended note to the British government. And now Mr. Seward learned absolutely and for the last time that Mr. Lincoln was chief and he was only a subordinate. It must never be forgotten that from that time on Mr. Seward served his chief faithfully, ably and well.

This little incident of the Trent affair, and the surrender of Mason and Slidell, gave the country an idea that they did not before suspect, that Mr. Lincoln was not only an accomplished diplomat, but that he was learned in international law, and that he knew how to manage great affairs.

But a greater than the Trent affair was yet to come. Early in his administration a company of clergymen called upon him and urged him to issue an emancipation proclamation. He greeted them kindly, but gave them no intimation as to what he would do, and dismissed them, they going home and reporting that Mr. Lincoln was not fit for his high office. The fact was that Mr. Lincoln knew public sentiment would not have sustained him had he issued the proclamation at that time, and that he had no power to enforce it. The country must be able to win battles, and that they had not yet done.

War went on in the East and in the West. It was generally favorable in the West, but disastrous in the East. Emboldened by success in Virginia, General Lee invaded the State of Maryland, and the great

battle of Antietam was fought and won by the Army of the Potomac. It was its first victory. General Lee retired into Virginia. Then it was that Mr. Lincoln saw that the time had come. He sat down, wrote his famous proclamation, called his cabinet together, and stated to them that he had not called them to ask for advice; suggestions could be made, but the substance could not be changed. He then informed them that he issued the proclamation as one of the war powers incident to the Presidential office, and as Commander-in-Chief of the Army and Navy.

Columbus discovered America. Abraham Lincoln discovered the war powers of the President, which forever stamped him as a great constitutional lawyer.

Yet something more came on the scene. Owing to the disrupted condition of the country, Louis Napoleon had seized the opportunity of establishing an empire in Mexico, sustained and backed by the French army. When the news came to this country, Mr. Lincoln caused to be dispatched to the French foreign office a note stating that this government would look upon it as an unfriendly act.

What was the outcome of that affair?

After Mr. Lincoln's death President Johnson, at the instance of Secretary Seward, dispatched an army of 40,000 men into southwestern Texas, and then in a polite note to the French government, notified them that it was time to evacuate Mexico. The whole affair was carried on in the regular form of diplomacy, but the diplomacy on our part was backed up by a veteran army commanded by General Phil Sheridan, and that meant business. That was the first time in the history of this country that we ever attempted to enforce the Monroe Doctrine, and it was a success; but it never again will occur in our day. So this strange man, with absolutely no experience in executive

or administrative business, arose from the common man to be a master of men.

The war went on. Vicksburg had been captured. The great battle of Gettysburg had been fought and won. General Lee had retired into Virginia, and still the war went on. Mr. Lincoln discovered that there must be one supreme commander, a general who would command all of the armies. Before that time everything had been at cross purposes. There was no concert of action between the army in the East and the army in the West. To remedy this, Mr. Lincoln caused to be passed through congress a bill reviving the rank of Lieutenant-General. Mr. Lincoln appointed General Grant to that position and ordered him to come to Washington.

Mr. Chittenden, who was Registrar of the Treasury during Lincoln's administration, in his voluminous "Reminiscences of Lincoln and His Times," relates that one day as he sat looking out of his window, facing Pennsylvania avenue, he saw twenty-four baggage wagons loaded with luggage, drawn by four horses with outriders, and on the sides of the wagons in letters of gold leaf the words, "Baggage Headquarters of the Army of the Potomac." In 1864, he happened to be at the Willard hotel one night when the passenger trains came in, and the usual number of passengers came into the office of the hotel and went up to register their names. While this was going on, he relates, he noticed standing in the rear a small man wearing a black slouched hat and wearing a citizen's overcoat, with a small valise in one hand and holding a little boy with the other. After the other passengers had been sent away, the small man registered. He noticed that there was something unusual; the clerks were polite, obliging and very attentive. The bellboys were busy running about, and the small man was taken away. He had a great curiosity to know who it was that had registered

and made such a commotion. He went up to investigate, and saw the name "U. S. Grant and son, Galena, Illinois." The man commanding the Army of the Potomac went forth to battle with twenty-four baggage wagons loaded with luggage. The new commander had come to take command with only a small valise. Anyone can draw his own conclusions.

The next day the General called on the President. The President told him that he had sent for him for the purpose of letting him know that on the following day he should present him his commission and that it would be in the presence of his cabinet and the leading government officials, and that he might like to have a little time to prepare an address. The President was always considerate of everyone.

On the following day the General appeared. Mr. Lincoln presented to him his commission with appropriate remarks. The General replied, thanking him for his confidence, and said that he hoped they would not expect too much, that anyone was liable to defeat, that he might be, but that he would do his best. The cabinet and visitors retired. The President and General were alone. The President then recounted to him the condition of affairs, the number of troops composing the Army of the Potomac, and the number of reinforcements that might be expected in case of need. The President stated that when the army went forth, a large number of transports had always been provided to convey them back in case of defeat. General Grant then said, "If the conditions and numbers of the Army of the Potomac are as you state, you need not give yourself any further trouble about transports, for when I retreat with the Army of the Potomac, no transports will be needed." At last Mr. Lincoln had found a General. One thing more asked the President: "Are there any requests that you wish to make?" "Why, yes;" said the General, "I would like to make three requests:

First, that General Sherman may take my place in the Army of the West, that General Thomas be retained as the commander of the Army of the Cumberland, and that I may be permitted to bring General Sheridan with me to the East." These requests were granted.

It is unnecessary to relate the terrible conflict which waged in Virginia and Georgia. Finally, Atlanta fell and Sherman started on his famous march to the sea. Thomas fought the great battle of Nashville and exterminated the army of General Hood. Sherman advanced through the Carolinas up to Goldsboro. Lee surrendered to Grant, and Joseph E. Johnson surrendered to Sherman, and the war was at an end. It then seemed as though the President might have some time for recreation, a long time for rest; but such was not to be the case. He had never been outside of Washington but twice in four years, once at the Hampton Roads conference, and once for two or three days in Richmond; but at last he fell by the hand of a dastardly assassin.

The Gracchi were assassinated for daring to suggest that the Italian people had some rights which even the Roman Senate was bound to respect. The Founder of our religion was crucified for having the courage to cast out the money changers and for denouncing the shortcomings of the Scribes and Pharisees and the priests of the house of Aaron. Savanarola was burned at the stake for instituting reforms which he thought were for the benefit of his beloved Florence. Henry of Navarre was assassinated after having issued the edict of Nantes, thus giving to the French some religious liberty which they had not known. William the Silent met the same fate, after having liberated his country from the intolerable burden of the Spanish yoke. But Lincoln fell at the hands of an assassin, after having liberated a race, after having restored the Constitution to its pristine vigor and glory, which

was "of the people, by the people and for the people." It would seem as if all great reformers were destined to martyrdom.

During those terrible four years, Mr. Lincoln could usually be found by day at the council chamber, at night at the War Department communicating with his chiefs in the field. He was a constant visitor at the hospitals, visiting the sick and wounded, offering them consolation and advice, and cheering the wounded soldiers with the hope that the war would soon end and they could go home to the arms of their mothers. At other times, he might be found at the Smithsonian Institution, discussing scientific questions with Prof. Joseph Henry. Flashes of his old wit and humor would sometimes appear.

It is related that at a cabinet meeting when the members came in they found Mr. Lincoln reading Artemus Ward. He laughingly asked them if they had never read it, at which Mr. Chase was disgusted that on such occasions and at such times the President should be reading Artemus Ward. On another occasion, a party of gentlemen called upon him to get him to modify and rescind an order issued by Secretary Stanton, which they thought to be unnecessarily arbitrary. The President, after listening to them, said that he did not know that he had any influence with this administration, but he sat down and indited a little note to Secretary Stanton and the order was recalled, influence or no influence. I do not vouch for the truth of that story; but it is good enough to tell, and thoroughly characteristic of the man. On another occasion, a party of gentlemen called upon him, and finding him temporarily out, commenced discussing the personal appearance of Judge Douglas. They spoke of his large head and body, and abnormally short legs, and then arose the question, how long a man's legs ought to be to make a well proportioned body? At this moment the President came in. They related the conversation to

him, and agreed to leave it to him. "Well," said Mr. Lincoln, "I think a well proportioned man ought to have legs long enough to reach from his body to the ground." These are specimens of his humor. How was it that this wonderful man rose from the lowest rank and estate to the highest position within the gift of the American people? I think it must be conceded that he was born with a genius for great affairs; but the real reason was, I think, that the man was always learning. He never became atrophied and stiff, never boasted that he never changed his opinions. One often meets a man of fifty years who boasts that he never changes his opinions. Such a man is ready for translation. Mr. Lincoln was always ready to change his opinions whenever he found that he was wrong. He was a man who always stood a little above those around him. He stood on the second rung of the ladder while they stood around him on the ground. As they approached to take a closer view, he would ascend a little higher. They might step upon the lower rung to take further view: the figure would still ascend, and so continue, and so it would have been if the ladder reached from the earth to the constellation of Orion. He was always learning. No man of his time was ever so lampooned, so caricatured, so universally talked about, and lied about as was Mr. Lincoln. Yet he never condescended to make reply or even defense, but chose rather to submit his case to the judgment of posterity. No man ever had a better opportunity for revenge upon his enemies. Revenge, that most despicable trait of man's character, had no part in his mental composition. He had ample opportunity for revenge, but never exercised it.

Much has been said of Mr. Lincoln's religious ideas. That is a subject about which no one knows anything; but fortunately he has left us a gospel that will rank with any of the gospels in the Sacred Book.

He announced in his second inaugural address: "With malice towards none, with charity for all." This, it would seem, should satisfy any religion, Christian or pagan.

Mr. Lincoln was a moral hero. He was a stoic of the heroiç type. He will forever rank with Socrates, Epictetus, and the Emperor Marcus Aurelius.

PERSONAL REMINISCENCES

I was never an intimate friend of Mr. Lincoln; do not know that he ever addressed one word of conversation to me. I do not know that he ever recognized me, except in usual salutations when with him. He was a distinguished man, and I was hardly an atom in society. I was one of those who stood around whenever occasion warranted, to hear him talk or tell his inimitable stories, and it is in that way only I claim to have had an acquaintance.

I first saw Lincoln in 1846. He was then a candidate for Congress in the Sangamon district. He came up to Hennepin to make a speech. Just a little before that, his opponent, Peter Cartwright, made a speech. I was a boy and never had heard a speech, so was exceedingly anxious to hear Peter Cartwright. I was teaching school, and applied to the board of directors for permission to dismiss school for the purpose of hearing the speech. Two of the directors were old line Whigs, one was a Democrat. The Whigs thought I might be in better business than stopping school to hear political speeches, while the Democrat thought it all right, that Mr. Cartwright was a splendid man to convert sinners; and so I heard Peter Cartwright. Soon after Mr. Lincoln

came, and I made an application for a second time in fear and trembling. The two Whigs now thought it proper to hear a Whig address, and so the Democrat assented. Mr. Lincoln's speech was of the old-fashioned Whig type. He had something to say about the Mexican war, a good deal to say about protective tariff, and the right of Congress to make appropriations for internal improvements. The question of internal improvements has been settled by congressional action, but the doctrine of protective tariff and original sin we still have with us.

My first vote was at this election and for Abraham Lincoln.

The constitution of 1848 remodeled our Supreme Court so that, instead of meeting at one place, they put it on wheels, making one station at Mt. Vernon, one at Springfield, and one at Ottawa. Sessions were held at the old court house in Ottawa until the new court house was built. As long as they were held in the old court house, Mr. Lincoln came every session. I always saw him. The reason was, I was clerk in the Circuit Clerk's office. After having dispatched their business upstairs it was the habit to come to the office to sit around and tell stories, and it was there I first heard Mr. Lincoln tell some of his inimitable stories. He had a wonderful fund of them, and they seemed to come as natural as water falling over a precipice. He seemed to use his stories for the purpose of illustrating cases, and it was said he used them with as much effect in jury trials as the other lawyers did the reported decisions of the Supreme Court. I thought then, and I now think, that they were not actual events, that he made them up out of his own consciousness, much as Hawthorne did his characters in the *Scarlet Letter* and the *House of Seven Gables.* The opinion has gone abroad that Lincoln was in the habit of telling stories of doubtful propriety. I can say truly that for four or five years in court I never heard him tell anything but good stories. I have inquired of a great

many old people if it were true. I have found a great many who would say that he did so, but never saw a man who heard him tell them.

The next time I saw Mr. Lincoln was in 1854. I went down to Springfield for the purpose of attending the State fair, and while on the grounds I saw a handbill announcing that Senator Douglas would make a speech that afternoon in the Representative Chamber of the Capitol, and so I forgot all about the fat cattle and large cabbages, hurried back to town, and heard him make one of his famous speeches in defense of his action in Congress. I was very much struck with the Senator's style. It was senatorial rather than stump fashion. Technically perfect, but delivered in a way as though it came from the Lord God of Hosts. Such was his style. After talking about one and one-half hours he closed his speech, and I thought that was the end of it, when everybody called for Lincoln, and he got up and made answer to Mr. Douglas in a speech of about one hour or more in length. It was then and there that Mr. Lincoln commenced his warfare against Douglas.

The next time I saw Lincoln was in 1856 at Bloomington, at a convention held for the purpose of organizing the Republican party and making a platform for the forthcoming presidential election. There were delegates from all parts of the State, composed of leading men from the old Whig party, besides men of the Democratic party and some Abolitionists. The convention was held in Rouse's old hall, and there were 1,000 present, more or less. After the convention had settled its rules, the address of the day was given by Lincoln. He was very tall and angular, standing fully six feet and four inches in height and very carelessly dressed, with dark complexion, large hands and large feet. When in repose, his countenance had a melancholy, serious look, as if dreaming; but when speaking or in conversation the whole countenance

changed and he became a different man. I do not think I ever saw anyone whose transformation was so complete. Around the platform were arranged reporters from Chicago and St. Louis. Mr. Lincoln arose to address the convention. The reporters sat there with pads before them, pencil in hand and ready to begin work, and in five minutes Lincoln had gained their attention. Lincoln's style of oratory was entirely different from that of any other person I ever heard. His voice was rather loud and shrill, and sometimes harsh, with great carrying power. He could have been heard as easily by ten thousand people. He was not so ornate as Wendell Phillips, not so great a rhetorician as Edward Everett, nor so great a word painter as Robert Ingersoll, but, if the power of oratory lies in the ability of an orator to convince his hearers, Mr. Lincoln was a great orator. He converted more people to his way of thinking than any American has done, save Thomas Jefferson. He spoke for an hour or an hour and one-half, first on the constitutional right of Congress to legislate on slavery in the territories, and then branched onto the moral side. He was absolutely invincible. I have never heard anything that could appeal to the passions of men as that speech which he made at Bloomington, and I thought then and I think now that in substance it will rank with the oration delivered by St. Paul on Mars Hill. At the close of that speech the reporters had forgotten what they came for. They made not a memorandum; and that was the famous lost speech. Some attempts have been made to revive it. It can never be done.

The next time I saw Mr. Lincoln was in Ottawa at the first Lincoln and Douglas debate in 1858. It is hardly necessary for me to speak of that, nor of the large assemblage here, as everyone in Ottawa knows everything about it. Here I will digress a little and relate an incident about Douglas. In 1849 Senator Douglas passed through Ottawa and

stopped here for a day or so to visit his political friends. Among others he called upon the Postmaster, then Col. Gibson. I happened to be in the postoffice and was introduced to Judge Douglas. It was the first time I had seen him. He had just returned from abroad. He related his experiences and travels in Russia, and discussed his journey from Moscow to St. Petersburg, also his reception by Emperor Nicholas. This was before the Crimean War. In 1858 I was on the reception committee. I do not remember that I was appointed a member of the committee, but I acted as one of the committee. The reception committee in a body called on Mr. Lincoln at the residence of Mr. Glover and then proceeded to Mr. Reddick's to call on Senator Douglas. It fell to my lot to make the introductions. I stepped forward to speak, and Mr. Douglas stepped forward. He said, "Why, Mr. Nash, I have not seen you since 1849." It fairly took me off my feet, but I soon regained my equanimity, and later discovered that this was one of the secrets of his political power.

The next time I saw Lincoln was in 1861, after he had been elected President. I visited Springfield that winter and was one of the secretaries of the Senate. Mr. Bushnell was a senator, and he and I had rooms in the Johnson building. Mr. Lincoln had a suite of rooms there also, and was there forty days before he went to Washington. I saw him every day and always exchanged salutations, but nothing more. I was once in his office. Mr. Lincoln had invited Mr. Bushnell to call. I went with Mr. Bushnell, and there I saw for the first and last time John Hay. During the time that the President was there, he had called his cabinet to Springfield to visit him. One day he entertained them at dinner at the Cheenery House, and it so happened that Mr. Bushnell and I sat at the table immediately adjoining, where we could see them. Mr. Lincoln sat at the head of the table, and his associates were Mr.

Chase, Secretary of the Treasury; Mr. Cameron, Secretary of War; Gideon Wells, Montgomery Blair, and, at the foot of the table, Mr. Bates. Mr. Seward was not present, but I had seen him and heard him make a speech at Chicago. I saw all of the cabinet there except Seward, and Lincoln sitting at their head. The man who most attracted my attention was Mr. Chase, a rather large, dignified, fine looking man, who looked as though born to command. Secretary Cameron was a man past the prime of life. Mr. Wells did not appear to attract my attention. Montgomery Blair did. He had the appearance of a man of fashion, well groomed. He was a man who would be at home at any place or in any society. If I had not known that Mr. Bates was the leader of the St. Louis bar, I should have taken him for a college professor, instead of the great lawyer that he was.

Finally, I saw Mr. Lincoln when he left Springfield to go to Washington never to return alive.

I stood upon the north side of State House square and saw the carriages go to the depot. I did not know that he was going to speak, so I did not go down. I have always regretted that I did not.

He went to Washington, issued a proclamation calling Congress together for the next 4th of July, and called for 75,000 troops for ninety days. Here I want to digress a little, but you will see in the end that it has special reference to Lincoln. Gov. Yates called a special session to make such apporpriation as he could for the accommodation of the volunteers and to arm and equip them. A bill was introduced as suggested by the Governor and met with prompt response. The Republicans had two-thirds majority in both houses, but did not like to force it because it was likely to meet with opposition. All members of Congress were present except Senator Douglas and John A. Logan. The Legislature would meet from day to day and

adjourn, determined in the end to pass the bill. It was announced that Senator Douglas would come in a day or two. Some time in the night while I was fast asleep I heard a voice calling, "Get up, John, and light the gas." To which I replied, "Wash, get up and light your own gas." The command came again. I thought it was a matter of discretion to obey. I asked what he wanted. He said, "Get a piece of paper and I will tell you what I want." I got the paper, and Mr. Bushnell dictated the famous joint resolution calling upon Senator Douglas to address the Illinois Legislature. I said, "Why do you not ask Senator Trumbull what he thinks?" Mr. Bushnell said, "I do not care about Trumbull. He is all right. What we want to know is what Douglas thinks." He said, "We do not want to carry this bill through as a party measure, but want it to appear that it is as near unanimous as possible." I made a copy before I went to bed. In the morning I gave the original to Mr. Bushnell and saved the copy. In the morning Mr. Bushnell arose in the Senate chamber and said he desired to offer a resolution. The presiding officer asked what should be done with the resolution, to which some Senator moved it be adopted. It was adopted by twenty-five senators present. I had a great curiosity to see what the effect would be on the other side of the State House. I passed over to the Representative chamber. In less than ten minutes it was announced that the resolution was adopted by the other branch. The committee was appointed, Mr. Bushnell chairman, five of the Senate and seven of the House. On the day of his arrival, the committee saw Senator Douglas and solicited him to make an address. He replied favorably, and that he would address them at 2 o'clock the next day. Two o'clock came. The Senators and the officers of the Senate went to the Representative chamber. Being an officer of the Senate, I had a seat on the platform, and sat, fortu-

nately, not more than ten feet from Mr. Douglas, who made the most famous speech of his life. It was most impressive and stamped him all over as a patriot. He told his political friends that it was time to forget all party conditions; that the welfare of the country was at stake; that it was the duty of every man to throw aside his prejudices and go in for the Union—the whole Union. He closed the address by stating that he was going to Washington to support Lincoln; and so at last, Mr. Douglas, after six years of warfare with Lincoln, came and occupied the same platform with him. What would have happened to that administration if the Senator had lived? It is needless to say that after that Senator Bushnell was the most conspicuous man in either branch of the Legislature.

The next time I saw Lincoln, his body was lying on a catafalque in the Representative hall of the old Capitol, clothed in the habiliments of the grave. Mrs. Nash and I attended the funeral. It was said that there were at least 100,000 people viewing his remains and attending the funeral obsequies. There were present all of the Governors of the Northwestern States with their staffs. The Diplomatic Corps was all represented, either in person or by attachés. The President and Cabinet, for obvious reasons, did not attend. The army was represented by General Hooker, the navy by Admiral Porter or Davis. It took two days for the visitors to pass through that hall to view the remains. On the day of the funeral, none were admitted but the family and immediate friends, and distinguished visitors. The funeral services were conducted by Bishop Simpson, the Bossuet of the American Methodist Church. The funeral procession was followed by a detachment of military. The streets were thronged with a large concourse of people, who stood with bowed and uncovered heads. No sound was heard but that of muffled drums and the dirges from the

military bands, and so the procession moved to Oakwood Cemetery, where they deposited the remains of Abraham Lincoln in the bosom of Mother Earth. Earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust. So died the greatest of the Presidents. His name is enrolled among the immortals. His star was the bright and shining light to which the eyes of all people will turn who prefer liberty to slavery, who prefer constitutional government to that of autocracy. His star will be like that which guided the Wise Men of the East to the manger at Bethlehem.

In the palmy days of Greece, the Athenians erected the most beautiful temple ever built by human hands and dedicated it to a woman under the appellation of Athena, the Goddess of Wisdom. In that temple they placed her statue, carved and chiseled in ivory, gold and marble, the work of the greatest artist the world has known. All this they did to perpetuate one of the most beautiful ideals in Grecian mythology; and I know of no other cult, no other people and no other religion that has done more to beautify and adorn all that is noble and grand in the character of woman than did the people of that wonderful Attic race.

Let us hope that at some future time the American people will erect a Parthenon to the memory of Abraham Lincoln, and in it place his statue, solitary and alone, like Athena, and that it be wrought and chiseled in Pentellic marble, with arms outstretched, holding in one hand the Emancipation Proclamation and in the other his Gettysburg speech and his second Inaugural address, to encourage and enlighten all civilized people.